

THEMISTOCLES VOKOS
Chairman, Posidonia Events

Themistocles Vokos, born in Athens, Greece in 1939, started his career as a journalist in 1957 and worked for the Greek maritime weekly NAFTILIAKI and as a foreign correspondent for several newspapers and publications. He also contributed articles to the Financial Times, The Sunday Times, Lloyd's List and other journals.

He later founded a number of companies, involved in publishing, trade fair organising, management training, investment consultancy and market research, with offices in Hong Kong, the UK, Greece, USA, Japan and Brazil.

He is a founder member and Chairman of Posidonia Exhibitions, held in Greece every two years since 1969 promoting Greece as an international maritime centre.

In 1970 he also established The Seatrade Organisation in the UK which publishes Seatrade magazine and runs the Seatrade Academy in Cambridge. He moved the headquarters of his group to Hong Kong and became Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Fair Group in 1980, China 2000 Limited in 1983 and Computership, a data entry enterprise in China and the Philippines in 1985.

Since 1989, The Seatrade Organisation has staged the Annual Seatrade Awards Ceremony at Guildhall in the City of London which celebrates the achievements of the maritime community.

Principal guests to the Awards Ceremonies have included His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, His Royal Highness The Duke of York, The Rt Hon Sir Edward Heath, Admiral JW Kime, Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Professor David Currie, Dean, City University Business School and UK Minister of Transport The Rt Hon Alistair Darling amongst other prominent personalities.

Themistocles Vokos was instrumental in launching the first Sea Japan exhibition in Yokohama, Japan in 1993 which is now established as an important event in the international maritime calendar.

Vokos has also been responsible for establishing other international conferences and exhibitions around the world, thus bringing the maritime community together, with events such as Riomar in Brazil and Marintec in Shanghai.

In 1983, Vokos organised a major international conference in Hong Kong to discuss the role of Asia and Japan and China in particular, in an increasingly interdependent world.

This conference had a far reaching impact by bringing Asian leaders together. Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who was closely involved with the planning of this conference, was keynote speaker and participant at this event, attended by senior political figures from across Asia.

Themistocles Vokos pioneered relationships with China in the fields of media and communications following his first visit to the People's Republic of China in 1979.

In partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Communications he established two Chinese language magazines, Maritime China and China Transport in 1983, followed by Medical China, in cooperation with the Chinese Ministry of Health and US publisher McGraw-Hill. These publications circulated widely throughout China, becoming a bridge at that time with the 'outside' world.

Professional and business conferences and exhibitions sponsored by these publications were organised during the 1980's - at a time when access and contacts with China were difficult, actively encouraging the exchange of ideas, better mutual understanding and joint venture business initiatives.

In addition to activities in Asia, Vokos was also active in the Americas, particularly the United States and Brasil. A number of events were staged in New York and Rio de Janeiro, with the participation of personalities such as Henry Kissinger, Hubert Humphrey, Lord Chalfont, Secretary of the US Navy John Lehman and Senator Patrick Moynihan among others.

Vokos is a Vice-Patron of the Tall Ships Youth Trust, a sail training charitable organisation in the UK active with young people with special needs, to whom he has donated a 62 foot catamaran. He is also a member and supporter of Elliniki Etairia, the Greek Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards and commendations from various bodies and organisations. In February 2003 the Union of Greek Shipowners presented Themistocles Vokos with an honorary award in recognition of his services to the maritime community. Other Awards include ones from the London Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee, from the Union of Hong Kong Shipowners in 1973, the US Coast Guard Pacific Command, from HELMEPA the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association and a Special Seatrade Award presented in May 2013 by the Secretary General of the IMO, among others.

In April 2014 he also received an Honorary Degree from the International Hellenic University and Professor Costas Grammenos.

Themistocles Vokos has lived in Greece, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and the United States and is currently living in London.
